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## The Bison, April 13, 2001

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**HARDING**  
U N I V E R S I T Y



## Annual Spring Sing weekend begins today

### Offices work behind scenes to prep campus

Amanda Rush  
Staff Writer

When the Harding campus suddenly becomes overrun with castaways, Olympians and cowboys. And that's not to mention students and alumni from all over the country who all come together for Spring Sing and Youth Forum.

Although most people only experience the finished product, a lot of preparation takes place before the first church van rolls into Searcy.

The admissions office began preparing for this weekend as early as October, according to Mike Williams, assistant vice president for admissions and student financial services. At that time they began sending out mailers to prospective students, promoting Spring Sing and Youth Forum. Williams said that because of all the activities that occur this weekend, it is an ideal time for prospective students to visit.

"Spring Sing weekend is almost a Homecoming in the spring," Williams said.

According to Williams, the admissions office organizes visits to classes, a fair featuring various majors and other activities to attract prospective students.

"We try to plan activities that highlight all aspects of Harding," Williams said.

Williams said the most preparation work for the admissions office is the actual promotion of the weekend. In addition, the admissions office also organizes the Youth Forum, inviting a speaker and putting together the program.

The admissions office is not the only office on campus that spends time getting ready for one of Harding's busiest weekends.



Ashlee Johnson/The Bison

Senior Amanda Thomas puts the finishing touches on the backdrop for the GATA—Alpha Tau Epsilon show, "Sand Dunes and Don'ts." The Spring Sing weekend, which is expected to attract more than 10,000 people to Searcy, has been in the planning stages for much of the year.

Aramark also spends quite a bit of time in the kitchen, according to Steve Ritter, director of food service.

"It [Spring Sing] impacts the whole operation," Ritter said. "Everybody in every department is busy."

Because Spring Sing coincides with the School of Nursing's pinning ceremony and luncheon as well as the President's Council visit, Ritter said catering is kept busy all weekend.

In addition to extra catering, Aramark also spends time preparing for the influx of people in the cafeteria and student center.

Ritter said they rely a lot on historical information to get ideas of the numbers to expect.

"Our numbers don't [quite] double, but we do have quite a bit more business," Ritter said. "Some meals, we'll feed an extra 250 in the cafeteria. Spring Sing for us means we get to feed a lot of parents, family and potential students."

To attract business to the student center, coupons are printed on the back of Spring Sing tickets. Also, the student center food court will open at 8 a.m. Saturday, rather than noon.

Another department that keeps busy preparing for the weekend is the grounds crew. Although the grounds crew does not get ready especially for Spring Sing, a lot of preparation goes on because the arrival of spring co-

incides with the event, according to Johnny Ferguson, director of grounds beautification.

"We start doing general pruning for spring, spraying to kill the weeds, mowing and cleaning all the fountains," Ferguson said.

Mowing seems to be one of the biggest jobs that groundskeepers do in the spring. According to Ferguson, the grounds crew has about eight mowers that they use to mow all over campus, including the athletic fields and the university's rental property, an amount that totals about 200 acres. Ferguson said that around this time of year four of the grounds workers spend all day mowing.

### Mayor, local businesses praise event's contribution

Sarah Madden  
Staff Writer

Spring Sing not only has an effect on Harding students but also on the Searcy community. Local officials say Spring Sing, and the more than 10,000 visitors who come with it, is an asset to the community.

"The economic impact of Spring Sing is significant to the city of Searcy, and we are appreciative of all the people who work so hard to make Spring Sing a reality," Searcy Mayor David Evans said.

The economic impact of Spring Sing is significant to the city of Searcy and we are appreciative of all the people who work so hard to make Spring Sing a reality.

The impact, which includes a weekend of excellent sales figures and increased sales tax revenue, primarily benefits local businesses.

"It becomes a force of tourism and gets all of us business owners on our toes," said Mandy West, owner of Midnight Oil.

"I think that it's certainly an asset," said Randy Cross, manager of Hastings. "Anytime that you can bring a different clientele to the community, it helps business."

Local businesses have taken note of the crowds that come to Searcy and have learned to adapt. Most businesses say they are double staffed and do extra cleaning and preparation to be able to handle the crowds that are drawn in.

"We staff extra heavy for the weekend and order heavier on the breakfast bar," said Walter Moore, sales director at the Hampton Inn.

"We're full for the weekend; it fills up our business. We won't take a booking more than 51 weeks out, so we're usually booked full three weeks after the date of Spring Sing is determined."

As the owner of a video, music and book store, Cross has a slightly different perspective.

"It decreases our business during show times, but we usually see an increase because of parents and others that come in," Cross said.

Local businesses are also able to use the money that they make from the weekend to carry them through the slower times of the year.

"Anytime you have a weekend that's full, it's going to make your overall outlook for the year better," Moore said.

The economic impact of Spring Sing is significant to the city of Searcy and we are appreciative of all the people who work so hard to make Spring Sing a reality.

David Evans,  
mayor

## Final ASI lecture of semester features former student, independent counsel

Chad Lawson  
Staff Writer

Although he may not be well known for his affiliation with the Harding chapter of the Young Democrats or "Starr Dust" — the column he wrote for *The Bison* during his sophomore year in college — the name of alumnus Judge Kenneth Starr will probably be forever linked with the impeachment of President Bill Clinton.

Starr, who transferred to George Washington University from Harding in 1966, will serve as the last guest speaker in the American Studies Institute Distinguished Lecture Series for this school year. His presentation will take place April 19 at 7:30 p.m. in

the Benson Auditorium. Starr's speech will not be a ticketed event.

A native of Vernon, Texas, Starr replaced New York attorney Robert Fiske as independent counsel investigating Clinton's Whitewater land deal in August 1994. His investigation expanded and led him to uncover a sex scandal involving Clinton and White House intern Monica Lewinsky that triggered the 1998 release of Starr's report to Con-



Starr

gress detailing the case for Clinton's impeachment.

After graduating from Duke University Law School, he clerked at the Supreme Court and moved to Washington, D.C., to work with President Ronald Reagan's Attorney General, and Starr's mentor, French Smith. Ironically, it was while working with Smith that Starr helped draft the Reagan administration's opposition to the independent counsel statute.

"We've tried in years past to get Starr to come to Harding, but the investigation took up most of his time," said Dr. Bob Reely, associate executive director of the ASI. "He's a piece of history and his appearance here will give everyone a chance to look past the negative media persona that he had to adopt."

Reely said Starr, unlike a majority of the ASI speakers, doesn't give speeches on a regular basis.

"I think that he will provide the audience with an interesting mix of history and current events, but I don't exactly know what he'll be talking about," Reely said. "He was in Searcy a number of years ago to speak at a joint civic club meeting, but he doesn't speak at very many places. We're very lucky to get him."

Communication professor Lou Butterfield, who was Starr's college roommate, said he approached Starr three years ago about coming to deliver a lecture at Harding.

"He agreed to it in principle, but he couldn't really do anything until he was off independent counsel," Butterfield said.



# Teaching lessons



## Writer's Block

Sarah Terry  
Editor

If there's one thing I've learned after 17 years in the classroom, it's the importance of good teachers.

Good teachers — those who don't take the job for the three-month vacation — make lives happen. They inspire, motivate and challenge their students to be the best they can be.

Teaching a person to better themselves is one of the highest callings, and the best at their craft possess a willingness to make a difference, to change a life and expand a student's horizons to understand their true potential.

Just like other careers, not everyone is born for the classroom, but I most

**Good teachers — those who don't take a job for the three-month vacation — make lives happen.**

admire people who become teachers for the joy of the profession. In a world that's too often driven by dollar signs and personal gains, teaching is a refreshing change. Teachers will never be rich; they'll always be busy; and too often teaching is a thankless job that is underpaid, unappreciated and overworked.

But the fruits of their labor last a lifetime — how many other occupations can make similar claims?

It's an often jaded perception that one person can change a life, but it does happen.

I've been blessed with more than a few good teachers in my life and understand their intrinsic value.

Of course, there was always reading, writing and 'rithmetic, but my best teachers taught more than what came from a book. They inspired a keen interest in learning because of their own passion for teaching.

If my formative public school years gave me a positive introduction to teachers, then my college experience has only solidified what I already believed.

Teachers care about helping their students get into graduate programs, find jobs and move to their dream hometowns. Most importantly, they equip their students with the tools to succeed and teach them that anything is possible.

Zig Ziglar was noted for his famous for his line, 'If you can read this, thank a teacher.'

To teachers, consider this a thank you; to students, let this be a reminder to appreciate the people who live their lives to better yours.

# Return participant reveals why she can't hang up her choreography shoes

It is a time when the grass is a little greener, the parking lots seem more crowded and the cafeteria food tastes much, much better. Spring Sing weekend is a staple in the Harding calendar. It is an annual event that definitely keeps the campus buzzing with excitement.

Mentioning the show to a student or faculty member on campus will bring you a variety of reactions. Some show excitement, some show annoyance and others, if close enough to show time, a great deal of stress. When you mention Spring Sing to me, the reaction will be "I love Spring Sing," in my usual cheerleader voice quickly followed by giggles and teases from my close friends.

I had never seen a Spring Sing show, or even heard of it, until I came to Harding as a freshman. I am not in a club, so I really hadn't considered being involved. Most of my friends were taking part in one of the club shows and convinced me that it was something that I would love. Little did they know they were lighting a fire in me that would burn for four years. I joined the show knowing nothing about what I was getting myself into, and I loved every second of it. The rush of being on stage and having your friends cheer for you was something that I hadn't experienced since cheering in high school, and I soon realized how much I missed it.

When the megamix ended that year, I figured that was it for me. I was under the impression that only freshmen participated in Spring Sing. I decided that I wanted to go for another year, so I volunteered to direct the show that I had been in.

Most of my sophomore year, I spent my extracurricular time working on Spring Sing. This gives me an opportunity to let all the readers who are participating in a club act this year know how hard their directors work. Take a little time this weekend to love your club directors — They have worked very hard.

I miss out on a lot of activities involving freshmen and new students during induction week because I am not in a club. So my second year of Spring Sing allowed



## Guest Room

Jaren  
Page

**The work I have done in Spring Sing has been tough. It has been very time consuming, tiring and, at times, tedious. So, why would a senior who is graduating in May, looking for a job, planning a wedding and has only a few short weeks left with the best friends she has ever had spend her nights working on a show that comes and goes in one weekend? My answer lies in one word: memories.**

me to meet and become friends with dozens of people I wouldn't have otherwise known.

I still had an appetite for Spring Sing my junior year, but I wasn't interested in doing the club show again, so I decided to try out for ensemble. I really don't remember when I decided to attend tryouts, but I do remember deciding to stay once I arrived. The next day I saw my name on a list with 19 other students that I didn't know and I thought to myself, "What did I get myself into?" That thought soon vanished when I became great friends with the rest of ensemble.

During my third year of Spring Sing, I was constantly asking myself if I really wanted to go another year. After constantly turning my friends down to go hang out, I decided against it. I had been in it for three years, and it was time to hang up my choreography shoes and sit the next one out.

As I was going through the megamix last year, I began to get nostalgic. When I hit the "big finish," as I like to call the last pose, I decided right

then to try out for ensemble again.

This year, I am in my fourth and final Spring Sing.

Since none of my close friends are involved, Spring Sing is something I can call my own. I have made very close friendships with people at Harding that

I never would have met if not for Spring Sing. It has kept me involved in school and club activities that I normally wouldn't be a part of. Spring Sing is a Harding tradition, and I think that I can speak for most Spring Singers in saying that it is something to be proud of. A show takes so much effort and hard work from hundreds of people and thousands more enjoy watching and look forward to it each year.

Many people ask me why I do Spring Sing every year. The work that I have done in Spring Sing has been tough. It has been very time consuming,

tiring, at times, tedious. And in the last week or two before the show it becomes top priority over all other engagements.

So, why would a senior who is graduating in May, looking for a job, planning a wedding and has only a few short weeks left with the best friends she has ever had spend her nights working on a show that comes and goes in one weekend? My answer lies in one word: memories.

As I look back at my experiences of Spring Sing, I don't remember any of the songs we sang, or the choreography, or even how unflattering the costumes looked. I do know that I made friendships that I normally wouldn't have that will carry on forever.

I love the adrenaline of being in front of an audience and I enjoy singing and doing choreography. But those are not the reasons Spring Sing keeps me smiling. I have made the most wonderful memories from the shows that I have done and I have no regrets about doing Spring Sing every year. It is something that I am very proud of, and I will take the memories with me forever.

# Speak out: What is your favorite Spring Sing show this year?



"My favorite is the cowboy show because of the quintet and the variety of costumes."  
Rachel Hollis,  
freshman



"The toys and the cowboys are equally good. It's going to be a tough call to see who wins."  
Matt Price,  
freshman



"I like the toys show because, overall, they were just better than everyone else."  
Steve Dunkle,  
junior



"The castaways are my favorite. I like the music and the show is very unique from the rest."  
Christy Orr,  
senior

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**Business Manager**  
Mark Kinonen  
**Copy Editor**  
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# The Bison

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Jeremy Beauchamp  
**Photographer**  
Ashlee Johnson  
**Adviser**  
Jim Miller

The Bison is a campus newspaper written, edited and largely financed by students, seeking to provide high-quality journalistic discussion of issues of concern to the Harding community. It also serves as an educational tool for students, providing practical experience to enhance skills learned in the classroom. The Bison recognizes its responsibility to be accurate, fair and objective in its reporting while upholding Christian ideals for which Harding University exists. It attempts to serve as a forum for student perspectives, welcoming letters to the editor which adhere to ethical and professional standards. Editorials appearing in The Bison are the views

of the writer and may not reflect the official policy of the Harding University administration. Signed columns represent the personal views of the authors. The Bison is published weekly (except during breaks, test weeks and summer sessions) by Harding University, Searcy, AR 72149. Subscription rates: \$10 per year. Second class postage (USPS 577660) paid at Searcy, AR 72143. Postmaster: Send address changes to Harding University Box 11192, Searcy AR 72149-0001. Contact The Bison office at 501-279-4139 or 501-279-4471 or send faxes to 501-279-4127. The Bison is online at [www.harding.edu/thebison](http://www.harding.edu/thebison).

## Conferences target relationship work

Michael Chaffin  
Staff Writer

Harding will host the Men of God and WINGS Conferences next weekend. The conferences take place on Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21. The Institute for Church & Family and the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy are teaming together to bring the events under the leadership of Andrew Baker, coordinator of events for the ICF and Dr. Sherry Pollard, counselor.

The purpose of the Men of God and WINGS conferences is designed to give people encouragement in their relationships with God, their spouses, families and friends.

The ICF presents the Men of God conference, while the MFT department leads WINGS — Women in God's Service.

The conference is free, but there

is a \$7 fee for the Saturday luncheon.

The speakers include Jerry and Lynn Jones who, during the course of their marriage, have presented more than 100 seminars in 29 states. Jerry is a preacher of 40 years and has authored 12 books. Lynn holds a master's degree in clinical psychology and has a clinical practice. They will be individually speaking at their respective conference, and will also be conducting a communication seminar.

Other speakers are Joy McMillon and Don McLaughlin. McMillon has served as an inspirational speaker for many women's conferences around the country. She is a public relations specialist and is an editor for The Christian Chronicle.

McLaughlin, a Harding alumnus who has spoken on campus many times, is currently preaching at the North Atlanta Church of Christ.

## Education students earn 'A'

Public Relations Office

Tony Finley got what all parents want — an almost perfect report card.

However, Finley is not a parent, but the dean of the School of Education, and this report card contains the results of the Praxis II exam taken by 130 of his students.

For the record, the report card revealed that 98 percent of the Harding students passed the test. The statewide pass rate for the 18 colleges and universities with teacher education programs was 93 percent. The Praxis II is required for initial teacher licensure in Arkansas.

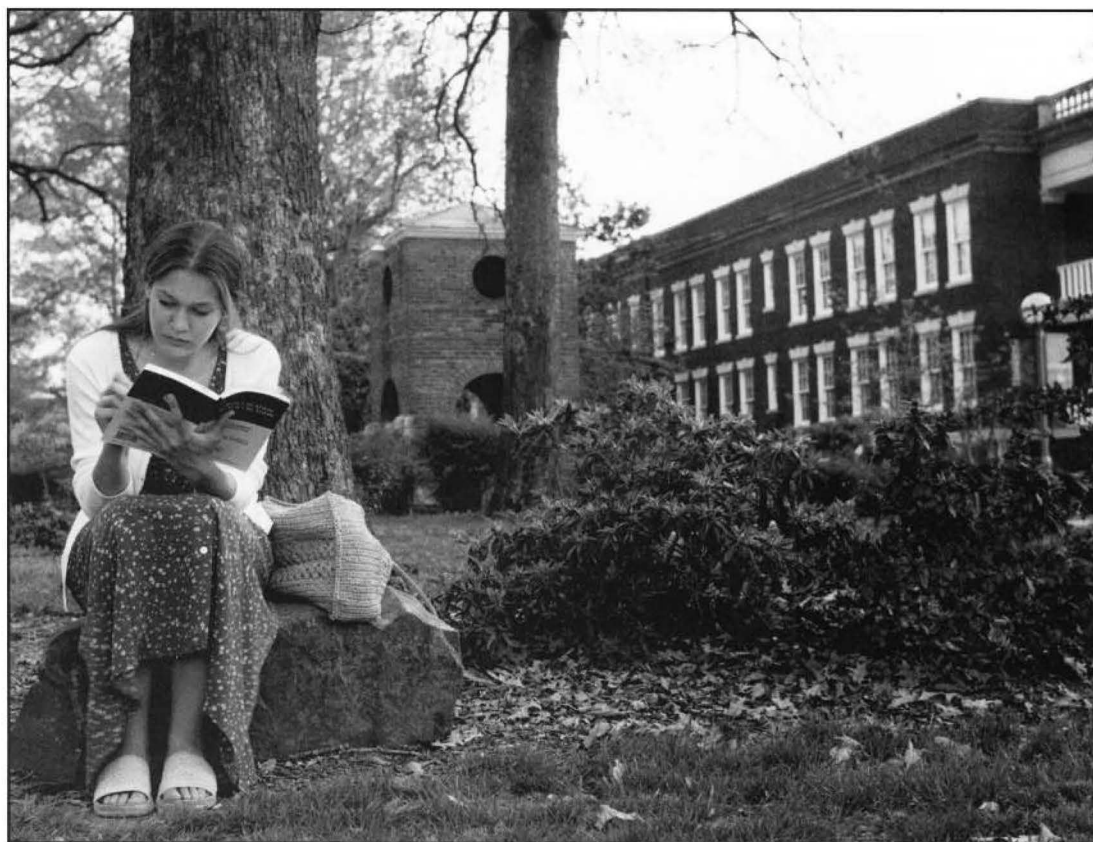
"To say I am pleased would be an understatement," Finley said. "We think this report card validates the skills of our graduates and the caliber of our program." He was quick to point out that there is still room for improvement. "Our goal is to have a 100 percent passing

rate. All of us at Harding want a perfect report card."

Finley believes the Praxis II is an adequate assessment, providing evidence that Harding and other schools offer students the competencies, knowledge and skills necessary for them to be effective licensed teachers.

He credits Harding's success on the Praxis II to a program Harding began two years ago. "We adapted from the Pathwise program of the Educational Testing Service, a field experience observation system that we are using to train all our students. It is really making a difference in the preparation level of our graduates," he said.

Within the Praxis II, Harding had a 100 percent passing rate in the basic skills assessment and the elementary, special education and early childhood areas of the test. The latter three areas comprise the largest segment of Harding's teacher training program.



A Harding student relaxes on the front lawn, near the Bell Tower and Pattie Cobb Hall. The dorm was originally built for Galloway College before Harding moved to Searcy from Morrilton in 1934. Daniel Dubois/Petit Jean

## Changes in Harding history include new buildings, rules

Rachel McCuiston  
Staff Writer

Students tread the sidewalks of this campus, walk the halls of familiar buildings and participate in classes every day, but in the process of living campus life rarely do they stop to think about Harding's history.

Harding began in Morrilton, Ark. in 1924 before moving to Searcy in 1934, to occupy the campus of the former Galloway Women's College.

With Harding's leaders focused on higher achievement, they were prepared to handle the struggles of a growing institution.

According to a 50th Anni-

versary Edition of Harding's history, Harding struggled financially and academically while at Morrilton. The campus had several unfinished buildings and unpaid teachers due to the lack of funds. In 1934 when Harding purchased Galloway College, financial problems became even greater.

The move did remedy the problem of expansion because Galloway already had 11 buildings on campus, including Pattie Cobb Hall.

For many years, the cafeteria, was located in the basement of Pattie Cobb. That cafeteria closed in the late 1980s, and the first floor space was remodeled for dorm rooms.

In 1939, three years after Dr. George Benson became president, the school paid off its \$76,000 mortgage on the Searcy campus, and during a Thanksgiving Day ceremony on the front lawn, the document was burned.

Between 1944 and 1954, many other changes took place. Godden Hall, a men's dormitory that had been the center of campus, was torn down to build the Administration Building.

Buildings that began construction during this period were the American Studies Building, Ganus Student Center, Beaumont Memorial Library, the Claud Rogers Lee Building, Rhodes Memorial Field House, Sewell Hall, Cathcart Hall and Armstrong Hall — all of which remain a part of campus.

Prices have also increased a great deal as well. A receipt for Mary Jo Walker issued by Harding College on Sept. 19, 1947, shows a balance of \$185.67 for the fall term. At the time, tuition was \$4 per term hour.

With Harding financially and academically stable, the administration readied to promote the school and gain nationwide recognition with its groups and programs.

By 1964, Harding's enrollment had reached 1,190 students from 38

states and five foreign countries.

During the 1964-1974 decade, the "Decade of Development," Harding continued to grow. The Recording Studio, Science Building, Stephens Hall, Keller Hall, Harbin Hall and Mildred Taylor Stevens Memorial Art Center were built; the Hammon Student Center replaced the Ganus Student Center.

On Aug. 27, 1979, then President Clifton Ganus Jr. officially proclaimed Harding a university.

That same school year, the \$2.6 million, 3,429-seat Benson Auditorium was completed. On Jan. 10, 1980, the student body met as a whole for chapel together for the first time since 1965. The split chapels that met at 11 and 11:45 a.m. combined to meet at 9 a.m.

In addition to physical alterations, other changes, such as the rules, have occurred.

Bessie Mae Pryor, Dr. Joe Pryor's wife, said the school week once went from Tuesday through Saturday with a 10 p.m. curfew.

In addition, clothing regulations stipulated that girls wear dresses with hose, and no one was allowed to wear shorts. Men's hair was required to be no longer than the ear, and they were not allowed to have facial hair.

From 1943 to 1947, couples were permitted to walk only in certain residential areas of town, and only when in groups of a least six people. On dates, couples were required to go in groups of four with a sponsor. Students were not permitted to take car rides except by special permission, and young ladies could not leave campus without adult consent.

As late as 1977, men were allowed to smoke, although women never could light up.

Although Harding has definitely made some changes throughout its existence, it has not made changes in its focus on God.

"It's amazing to see the growth of Harding," Mrs. Pryor said. "I love the atmosphere that's still on campus. I hope Harding's atmosphere will stay the same."

## Arkansas Police Corps Programs

Police Corps offers scholarships and educational reimbursements up to \$30,000 for individuals pursuing a four-year degree or masters degree and are interested in a career in law enforcement.

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## "Rough Riders"

King's Men, OEGE  
and Omega Lambda Chi



## "Goin' for the Gold"

Chi Omega Pi, TNT  
and Zeta Rho



## "Goin' Postal"

Chi Sigma Alpha  
and Regina



## "There's No Place Like Home"

Ju Go Ju and Ko Jo Kai

# Spring Sing 2001:

## A Theatrical Odyssey



## "Okay ... Who Was Driving the Boat?"

Delta Gamma Rho,  
Delta Chi Delta  
and Kappa Gamma Epsilon



## "Step Aside, Here Comes the Bride"

Shantih

Since last fall, almost 1,000 students have been on a journey — a quest that will end tomorrow night with the presentation of the John H. Ryan Sweepstakes Award. "Odyssey, A Journey Into Myth And Legend," the theme of Spring Sing 2001, has been in the works for three years, with the intent of designing a show around myth and legend.

Those many long days and nights of planning all come to fruition this weekend, as Spring Sing takes to the Benson Auditorium stage for five shows, including tonight at 7 and Saturday at 3 and 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10 or \$8 with a Harding student ID and are available at the Benson ticket window.

At the conclusion of Saturday night's show, the coveted John H. Ryan Sweepstakes Award will be presented to the best club act, as judged by a panel of 20 people scattered throughout the audience during each performance.

The judged categories are choreography, music, costumes and originality.

The stage for Spring Sing 2001 contains working waterfalls and fountains, special effects lighting and more pyrotechnics than ever before.

A flying magician, "Merlin," conjures up the world at the beginning of the show and packs it all away as the world of odyssey disappears at the end of the show.

The production of Spring Sing takes an enormous amount of time, said Dr. Steve Frye, director.

"The clubs are great. The hosts and hostesses are great. Ensemble is great. The jazz

band is great. Everyone is great," Frye said. "It's miracle week. We have tremendous faculty and staff support. I couldn't be more pleased.

Frye, who is well known for his pep talks to the different acts during the course of the semester, has high standards for the show.

"We don't want it to be a glorified talent show," he said. "We want it to match a show at Branson or a theme park. What we don't have in money for sets and costumes, we make up for in student enthusiasm.

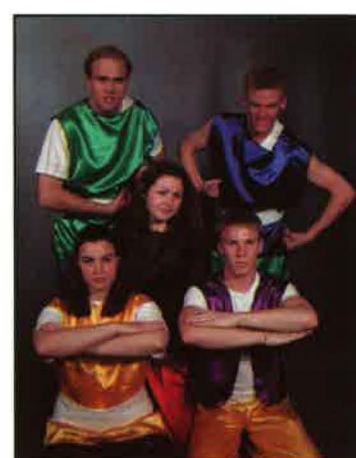
Frye sees the show as an opportunity to serve others and glorify God.

"One thing we want to develop is a recognition of those involved," he said. "If they can apply their best efforts here, it carries over to studies, personal life and spiritual life. Whatever you do, give the glory to God."

Frye also said the show reflects well on the university.

"We have the best students in the nation," he said. "Eight hundred to 1,000 people are involved in the production. We have tremendous crews."

Myca Haynes  
Staff Writer



## "Sand Dunes and Don'ts"

Alpha Tau and GATA





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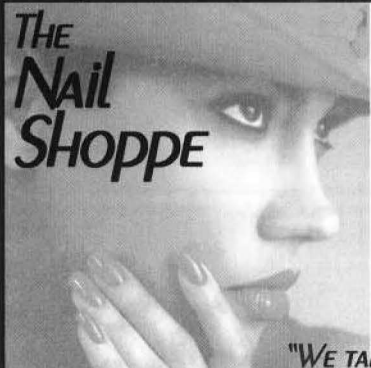
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## Ministry Opportunity!

The West University Church of Christ in central Houston, Texas is looking for someone to work in our Youth Ministry program for the summer. We would like a young man, not necessary a Bible major, who is interested in active service for the Lord, building relationships and serving children.

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at (713) 666-3535, or [dkennedy@westuchurch.com](mailto:dkennedy@westuchurch.com)





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Ashlee Johnson/The Bison

**Arkansas First Lady** Janet Huckabee, right, talks with sophomore Audrey Howell during the Scholars Advancing Learning and Teaching banquet Tuesday night. Huckabee discussed the importance of teachers in the world and expressed her respect for the profession during her address. SALT organized the event, which honored senior education majors.



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In this hypothetical example, setting aside \$100 a month in a tax-deferred investment with an 8% return in a 28% tax bracket shows better growth after 30 years than the same net amount put into a savings account. Total returns and principal value of investments will fluctuate, and yield may vary. The chart above is presented for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect actual performance, or predict future results, of any TIAA-CREF account, or reflect expenses.



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## Shakespeare's works provide another option for weekend

Clay Johnson  
Special to *The Bison*

The Harding campus buzzed with busyness as Spring Sing approached, but there were other rehearsals on campus going into the late hours. In the Administration Auditorium, another production was getting fine-tuned as it neared opening night.

"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" opens tonight at 7 p.m. for the first of four shows. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the Benson ticket window or at the door.

The show is senior Pete Vann's third stint as director on the Harding stage. Senior Lesley Ralls is the assistant director.

As the show begins, a thick volume of Shakespeare lays on a white pedestal. The three players take the stage, and in a style that is part "Masterpiece Theater," part "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure," they attempt to present all of Shakespeare's 37 plays in two acts. The medley/farce they create combines physical humor with brainy sarcasm, and often includes interaction with the audience.

Senior Matt Mellon, junior Jonathan Root and freshman Andy Roberts shift hysterically from role to role to act out each pseudo-Shakespearean scene.

The works of Shakespeare are hardly new to Mellon. His latest role was that of Petruchio in "The Taming of the Shrew," and he appeared in the title role of "MacBeth" last semester. A music and theater double major, Mellon has also written and directed an original production of "Faust."

Root, whose Shakespeare experience includes his performance as Laertes in "Hamlet," directed "Twelve Angry Men" and appeared as Dr. Carrasco in "Man of La Mancha."

Roberts made his debut on the Harding stage last semester in Root's "Twelve Angry Men."

Part of what makes this production funny is its timing with the several Shakespearean plays recently produced on campus. References to these other productions are not difficult to spot in the new show, and several props and costumes will seem strangely familiar to those who attended the more solemn renditions.

The cast hopes the rush surrounding Spring Sing doesn't drown out their parallel performance.

"The student body will love this show," Roberts said. "They need to remember to come after Spring Sing is over to next week's Monday and Tuesday night performances."

Mellon said this is a show that will be worth seeing twice.

"This show will draw an audience because each performance

will be completely different," he said. "It's going to be great to finally have an audience to improvise with."

Root said the show will offer something for everyone.

"You'll like it if you love Shakespeare; you'll like it if you hate Shakespeare," he said.

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## Waterfall, pyrotechnics lead special effects lineup

Natasha Jaworski  
Staff Writer

Each year, Spring Sing continues to be technologically advanced. This year is no exception with more special effects being used in lighting, sound and in the set than years past. All of these advances have brought more work for the crews but promise a more spectacular show for the audience.

Steve Martin, assistant director of media services, leads the lighting crew. Along with Dr. Steve Frye, producer, Martin worked for several weeks to determine what he wanted with lighting and effects for this year's show.

"I implant Frye's ideas into lighting effects that work for the show," Martin said.

One noticeable technical change is an increased use of pyrotechnics. After a limited experiment with them in last year's show, Martin said Spring Sing 2001 will see many more.

"This year we are using more than any other previous year, with 50 going off during each show," he said. "There will actually be only one student operating them during the show, but we started weeks before setting them up and making sure everything is safe."

Lighting has improved incredibly over the years and this year has proved to be even more brilliant, Martin said.

Audio has also improved from last year with Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers tracks being used for the first time.

"SMPTE tracks is audio software that triggers the lighting program to go along with the audio," said David Woodroof, director of media services. "We are using SMPTE on all of the club audio tracks and lights."

This software requires the same amount of set up, but come show time, it makes the sound work easier. Also new this year is the fact that 90 percent of the solos in the shows will be performed live instead of being previously recorded like other audio.

"This makes it easier for us as well as sounding better to the audience," Woodroof said.

There are also more ensemble members with head microphones than ever before, with 12 being used instead of the usual six to eight.

"This also adds to the quality of sound the audience is getting to hear," Woodroof said.

The set may be the most labor-intensive aspect of the technical work behind Spring Sing. Weeks and months of preparation are needed, especially when special effects are involved.

"Dr. Frye has the general idea, and I do the research and try to make his idea doable," said Scott Lloyd, technical director.

Months before the show, Lloyd starts working on the idea for Spring Sing in order to get everything they want into the set.

"This year it is more technically challenging with water fountains and more things to think about ahead of time," Lloyd said.



Daniel Dubois/Petit Jean

Hosts and hostesses for Spring Sing 2001 are junior Shelley Faulkner, seniors Joe Yale and Kim Hodges and sophomore Joey Kincheloe. Almost 1,000 students will participate in the weekend activities, including junior Melanie Harkabus, right, a member of the "Rough Riders" show and freshman Jordan Tanksley, below, a participant in the show "Okay ... Who Was Driving the Boat?"

## Center stage



## Dreams become reality as four students prepare to host annual production

Chrissy Ingram  
Staff Writer

What do a sophomore who enjoys kick boxing, a senior preparing for dental school, a junior Pied Pipers member and a senior marketing major have in common? They are hosts and hostesses for this weekend's Spring Sing 2001.

Joey Kincheloe, Joe Yale, Shelley Faulkner and Kim Hodges have been practicing together since before Christmas. With more than 30 hours of practice each week since spring break, these four will take the stage in "The Odyssey: Journey into Myth and Legend."

Kim Hodges, a senior marketing major, is the first second generation Spring Sing hostess ever. Her mother, Carol Kell, who is now assistant

to the director of admissions, was a hostess in 1977.

"It's always been my dream," Hodges said. "It runs in the family; I grew up with music."

Hodges attended Harding Academy and said she has dreamed of being a Spring Sing hostess for years. She tried out for hostess in 2000 and was selected for ensemble. When she tried out in 2001, her dream finally came true.

Shelley Faulkner, a junior communications management major from Searcy, was influenced to be a hostess by her older brother, Justin Lawson, who was a host in 1997 and 1998.

Faulkner was a hostess last year and a member of ensemble her freshman year.

"I have grown up singing around the piano with my family," Faulkner said.

She has been singing as long as she can remember and has hopes of continuing in the future.

"I've always wanted to be a contemporary Christian singer," she said. "If the Lord opens that door,

I'd love to walk through it."

Joe Yale, a senior biology major from Kennett, Mo., is a second-year host. He has been involved in theater, music, singing and playing the guitar.

"[Spring Sing] isn't that much of a sacrifice," he said. "I'm never happier than when I get to do something like this."

However, Yale's future plans don't include pursuing a singing career, he said. He plans on going to dental school this fall in New Orleans.

"I can't imagine being able to work with the same quality of people out in the world," he said. "Steve and Dottie [Frye] are like second parents."

Joey Kincheloe, a sophomore Bible major from Chesapeake, Va., was selected as a host on his first tryout. He has been voice training for more than four years, enjoys kickboxing and playing the piano.

"It's neat to be a part of something so big," he said. "I really love the people involved; I'm pumped about it."





# Faces in the Crowd

## 'Mr. Spring Sing' among fixtures of annual show

**Editor's Note:** This is a continuing series featuring unique members of the Harding community.

**Ashlee Johnson**  
Staff Writer

What's the prescription for creating a Spring Sing show that is sure to please the crowd? Just ask the doctor.

Dr. Jack Ryan, professor of communication, knows it takes just the right mixture of creativity, determination and cooperation to pull it off. He knows because he has accomplished it year after year.

This weekend marks Ryan's 28th year overseeing Spring Sing, Harding's elaborate annual production showcasing student talent and enterprise. Known to some as "Mr. Spring Sing," Ryan's ties to Harding precede his involvement with the show.

Ryan came to Harding as a freshman in 1955, after serving in the Navy for four years. Introduced to the school by a friend, Ryan said he was persuaded to join him through the reasoning that Harding "wasn't like the Navy, where if we don't like it we are stuck for four years."

"Well, I came here and I loved it," Ryan said.

In 1959, he received a bachelor's degree in speech, then attended the University of Illinois for his master's degree. Returning to Harding, Ryan taught for six years before leaving to pursue a doctorate at the University of Missouri.

Returning again to teach, Ryan was unaware of the responsibility that lay in store for him. His involvement in Spring Sing began in 1974, the year of the show's inception. Asked to be a faculty advisor by the two student creators, Ryan accepted.

"They were looking for someone who had been here, who had a feel for the mission of the school ... just a safety measure, I guess."

That year, he advised a little.

"The second year, 1975, that's when I plunged in head over heels," Ryan said.

He and music professor Jeff Hopper worked together for many years afterwards to put the show together, with Ryan in the director's seat.

"It was great working with Dr. Ryan," Hopper said. "I've never seen anyone so gung ho for Harding University students, and he shows that through his dedication for Spring Sing."

Through Ryan's role as director, he worked closely with the clubs.

"I visited them constantly, advising and offering suggestions for choreography, costumes, themes ... everything."

Since the arrival of Steve and Dottie Frye, Ryan's duties have been pared down. Steve Frye took over as director, while Dottie Frye began working with the hosts and hostesses.

Ryan's most recent role is as producer. His work cannot be seen onstage because his area of work is behind the scenes.

"There are 1,001 things that need to be done," Ryan explained, noting the financial and logistical aspects, such as the selection of judges and production of the printed program.

Ryan's new role is not the only change that Spring Sing has experienced since its earlier days.

"The show has certainly grown.

We've gone from this, on risers," Ryan said, moving his arms in an aloof fashion, "to what we do now."

Ryan loves to hear praise for what is being done.

"Once we had two judges come from Broad-

way," Ryan said. "When they handed me their ballots, they said, 'I can't believe what we've seen ... how do they do this?'"

Ryan says he is glad the complaints of inappropriateness that were so abundant at the inception of the show are hardly expressed anymore.

"I think a lot of people realize now ... you can have all this fun, in funny costumes in full view of 12,000 people," he said. "What's wrong with that?"

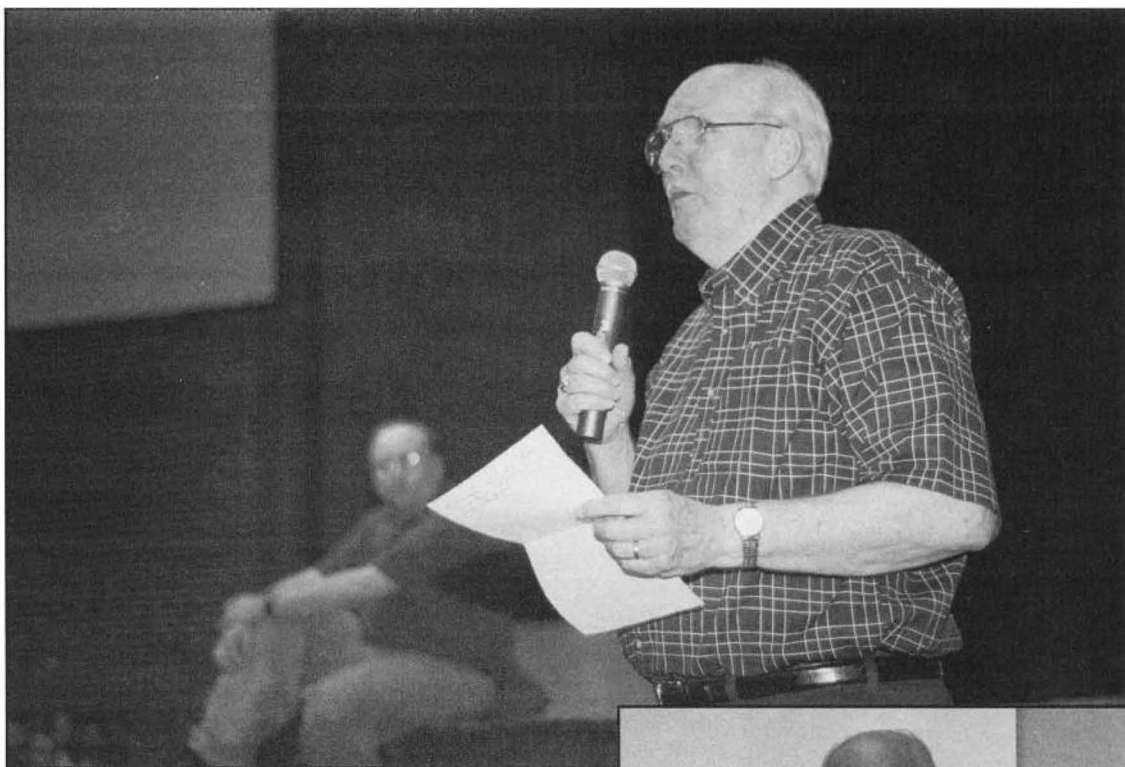
The part of Spring Sing that amazes Ryan is that students accomplish the show in addition to a full college load.

"There are a lot of substantive values about this show that people just don't think about," Ryan said.

While admitting it is a fun outlet for creativity, Ryan also recognizes the chance students have to mature and learn what teamwork is all about.

"I've seen people reluctantly take leadership roles, because it was pretty much forced on them, but they came through with flying colors," he said.

But Ryan is not the only one who admires hard work and determina-

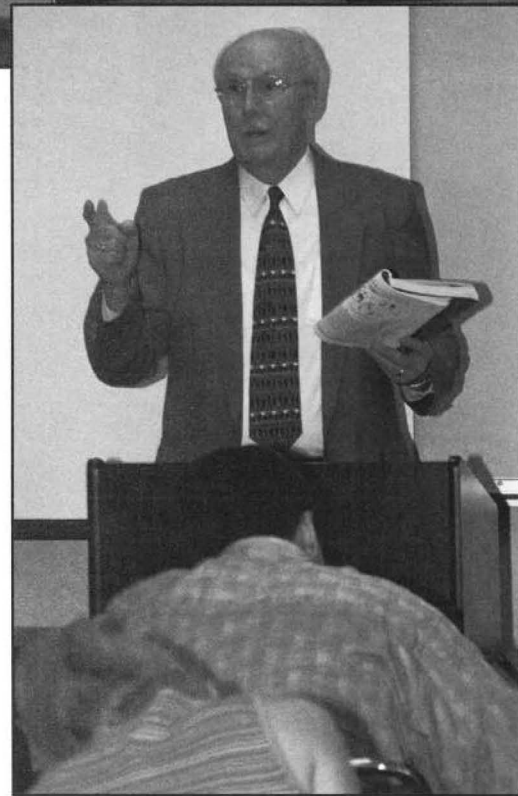


Daniel Dubois/Petit Jean



Jeff Montgomery/Public Relations

**Dr. Jack Ryan**, top, Spring Sing producer, addresses participants during final rehearsals this week. Known to many as "Mr. Spring Sing," Ryan has worked with the show since its inception 28 years ago. At right, Ryan lectures students in his speech class. Above, Dr. Steve Frye, Spring Sing director, presents Ryan with the sweepstakes trophy after it was renamed the John H. Ryan Award in 1998 during the show's 25th anniversary.



Ashlee Johnson/The Bison

tion. Three years ago, on Spring Sing's 25th anniversary, Ryan was honored when the sweepstakes award was renamed the John H. Ryan Award.

"My goodness, I was floored by that," Ryan said, smiling. "It was a very nice recognition."

All his years of hard work with Spring Sing have at times left him exhausted.

"Even though [mentally] I'm a spring chicken and a cool dude ... physically, you just feel the effects of this, the hours and time and so forth," he said.

All in all, Ryan says he feels blessed to work in an environment he enjoys so much.

"There's no other place I can think of, or any other type of work that I could've done in my life that would've made me happier," Ryan said.

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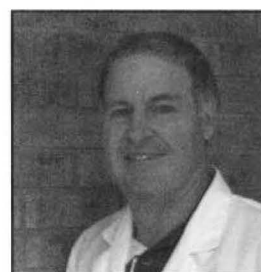
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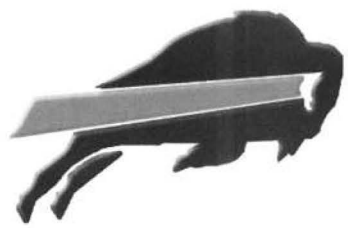
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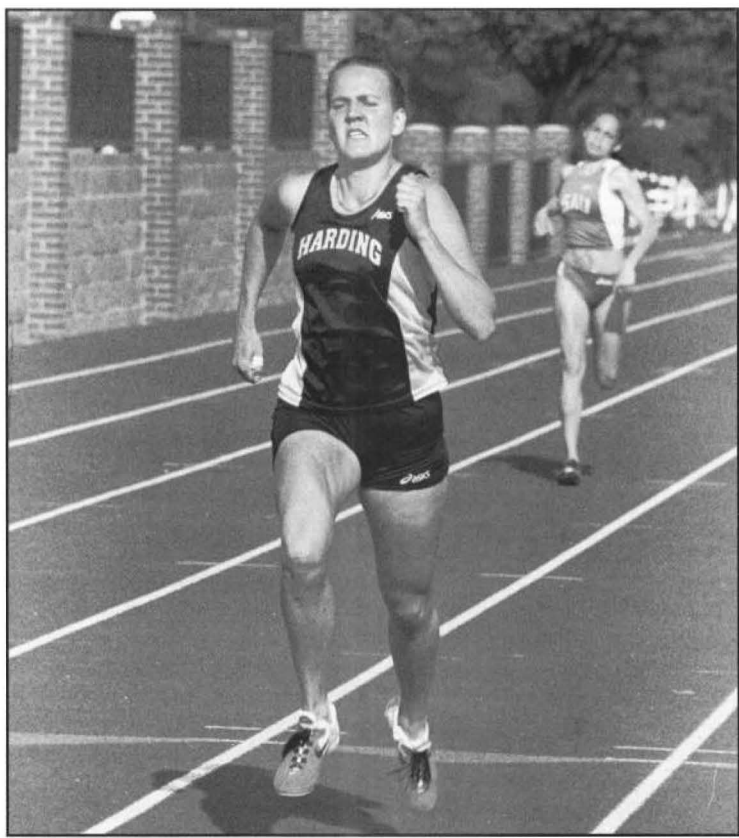
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# Bison Sports

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Daniel Dubois/Petit Jean

Harding track team member Hanna Ritakallio sprints her way to a first place finish in the 400-meter dash at Tuesday's home track meet. Ritakallio, originally from Finland, shattered two long-standing Harding records last week at the Big Cat Classic in Memphis.

## Track member sets the pace

Hannah Rhodes  
Staff Writer

Harding's track team is shining, thanks in part to star runner junior Hanna Ritakallio. The Finland native has set two Harding records, smashing previous records in both the 800- and 1,500-meter races.

Ritakallio, who is now in her second semester at Harding, previously attended Tulane in New Orleans before being contacted by Harding's assistant coach Olli Haavikko, also a native of southern Finland.

Ritakallio took first place in both the 800 and 1,500 at the Big Cat Classic, hosted by Rhodes College and the University of Memphis. Breaking the previous record time of 2:12.96 set in 1993 by Shawna Queen, Ritakallio finished the 800 in 2:12.74. Ritakallio also finished the 1,500 in 4:34.82, easily topping Kelsie Hutchinson's record of 4:37.81, set in 1990. Ritakallio's times more than qualified her for the

800 and 1,500 outdoor nationals. Her personal best outdoor times are 2:05 in the 800 and 4:20 in the 1,500.

Ritakallio won every race she ran against NCAA Division II competition during the indoor track season, where she qualified to compete at the national meet. She recently completed the indoor season, finishing fourth nationally in both the 800 and the mile run at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Meet in Boston. The Harding star was the only athlete to place in the top five in both races. Ritakallio's best indoor times are 2:10 in the 800 meters and 4:51 in the mile.

"Hanna is a top-notch competitor and an extremely hard worker," coach Bryan Phillips said. "Everything she's gotten she has achieved through hard work."

"I have run all my life," said Ritakallio, who has been in training since age 15. "I've enjoyed track and field since I was 8 years old, but I also enjoyed many other

sports, such as soccer and volleyball."

Ritakallio has qualified for outdoor nationals in the 1,500, to be held in May. She is also a provisional qualifier in the 800. Ritakallio says her personal goal is to achieve personal records in the 800 and 1,500.

"Of course my dream is to win nationals," Ritakallio said, "but who wouldn't want that?"

Ritakallio enjoys Harding, although she says Searcy is different from her native Finland.

"I am very thankful for this school because all the teachers, coaches, students and everyone are so encouraging," Ritakallio said. "It's very nice, because I never got this kind of encouragement before. It motivates me. Running is a hard sport, and all the encouragement helps you to do your best. It's nice when the coaches and students treat you so well. It makes you feel good that someone is interested in your sport."

Ritakallio will continue to compete this summer in Finland.

## Popular lawn sport thrives on Harding campus

Mac Bell  
Staff Writer

Baseball, football and basketball are known for large fan followings and big money deals. On the fields and lawns of Harding, a different type of sport has found prominence.

Ultimate Frisbee, or disk as it is sometimes called, seems to be one of the most popular recreational activity played on campus.

The game is played by dividing up two teams and spinning the Frisbee on the ground, as a coin toss of sorts.

The two teams then go to opposite sides of the field and the team who lost the spin throws the Frisbee (like a kickoff in football) to the other team.

The object of the game is to pass the Frisbee down the playing field to teammates in order to score a touchdown. The tricky part about the game is that who-

ever is in possession of the Frisbee is not allowed to move from the spot in which the reception was made.

The person with the Frisbee can only advance down the playing field by passing to his teammates, who are being defended by the opposite team. If the disk is dropped at any time it automatically changes possession and the team who was on defense shifts to playing offense.

"Disk is an unorthodox form of exercise," said senior Andy Justus, an avid Ultimate Frisbee player. "The game is really about friends, fellowship and sweat."

"Playing disk is a tradition that has been handed down through the generations of Harding students," senior Scott Diles said. "Most people had never played it until they came to college and will probably never play it again after they leave Searcy."

"It is a park game that is played with a group of friends, so as long as there are friends and parks I guess there will be disk."

There is a select group of students devoted to playing the game. These students are particular about how many people are invited to participate.

"The ideal game is six on six or seven on seven," Diles said. "Any more or less than that is not as fun."

Josh Bittle, a former Harding student who continues to play Ultimate Frisbee every Tuesday and Thursday said, "We have to be careful about who we invite to play because if too many people are out there you will only touch the disk once every 30 minutes."

At Harding, Ultimate Frisbee is not generally played coed. It is usually an all-male game. Some say this is because of the rough nature of the game.

"In the past two years we have had a broken jaw, a broken wrist and a guy that punched



Ashlee Johnson/The Bison

Sophomore Gareth Kerlin tosses the Frisbee to a teammate during a recent game of Ultimate Frisbee. The front lawn provides a perfect area for students to participate in the popular game, also referred to as "disk."

through a window going for the Frisbee and cut up his hand," Justus said.

In spite of the minor dangers involved in playing Ultimate

Frisbee, the reward is the good-spirited fellowship among the players.

In intramural and intercollegiate sports, players have a tendency to take each game more seriously and the fun-factor takes a backseat to the competition. But when you play a game on the front lawn, it's all about friendly competition.

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## Sports: More than a pastime; rather a reflection of life



## Overtime

Jeremy  
Beauchamp  
Sports Editor

Maybe it's the smell of a freshly cut ninth green at 10 in the morning. It could be the greasy feel of that newly purchased football. For some, it might be the salty taste of sweat as you run down a soccer ball. For others, it's the sound of 10 pairs of sneakers squeaking repeatedly across a wooden basketball court. For me, it's the sight of a recently lined, sparkling infield juxtaposed with a shining emerald green outfield.

Sport is more than a pastime, it is a teacher. Sport is a familiar friend that you can rely upon to accept you for who you are. It is a proving ground. It is a war against yourself where the spoils of battle are blisters and sweat, torn ACLs and a strained oblique.

I fell in love with baseball at age six. Born and raised in southern California, I quickly became a diehard Dodger fan. At age seven, my father bought me my first glove and taught me how to play catch. That summer I signed up for Little League for the first time. I played for five years, and then again my freshman year of high school. To be on the field and feel the dirt fall through my fingers was what I lived for. When my head was truly in the game and all other things cleared from

**[Sport] is a war against yourself where the spoils of battle are blisters and sweat, torn ACLs and a strained oblique.**

my mind, I experienced the most fulfilling calmness of my life. The anticipation of each pitch; the crack of the bat hitting the ball can make you feel more alive than anything else.

When you're young, the game represents everything pure and good in your life. Even when parents behave like adults and take each at bat as a matter of life and death, when you play the game, it just feels right. You can't understand everything about the game and you don't have to — it helps you respect it more. The game, whatever it is for you, is like practical Zen. When realize you can't understand it, you do.

It's also a lot like life. You have a goal you must reach, but on the way to that goal there are rules you have to follow. Along the way you will fall, but you must get back up. You will lose many

times, but you will also win. There are upsets and underdogs, comebacks and dirty players. Bad calls are made and we kick and scream to no avail. In the game, as in life, the outcome hinges upon the decisions we make to the infinite number of choices we face.

I have always been a true fan of baseball. When the Dodgers are playing a televised game, I watch it in its entirety. If the game isn't televised, then I listen to it on the radio. It doesn't matter how, as long as I get to experience it. Even over the cracks and pops of the AM frequency, you still hear the sounds of the game. Watching the game transports me back to days when life was just about fun. No deadlines to meet or tests to take, just me, a glove and a ball.

In baseball, as in every sport,

it's not the players that make the game; it's the game that makes the game. Although players fuss with owners over money and cause strikes and boycotts, I still believe the game itself is pure, no matter what the people who play professionally do. It's the same in every sport. Players lose sight of the innocence of sport. When we were young, we dreamed of playing in a professional stadium, wearing a professional uniform and getting to play the game we love every day as a job. Of course, for most of us those dreams will never come true. But we did dream.

Sport has taught me a lot of things. The joy of winning, the agony of defeat and how to be a kid. When I play these days, I am always reminded of past hopes, old friends, great triumphs and forgotten dreams. The only thing that has stood firm is the game itself. As long as there are kids who dream and find more joy in a line drive up the middle than in a brand new dollar bill, then sport will continue to provide an answer to life's toughest lesson: how to enjoy life.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Texas vs. <b>Oakland</b>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Houston vs. <b>St. Louis</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Los Angeles</b> vs. San Diego | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### NBA Basketball

(all games Sunday, April 15)

- |                          |                               |                          |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Sacramento</b> vs. Phoenix | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Utah vs. <b>Minnesota</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Portland</b> vs. Lakers    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Orlando vs. <b>Miami</b>      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Major League Soccer

(all games Saturday, April 14)

- |                          |                                    |                          |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Los Angeles</b> vs. Kansas City | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Washington</b> vs. Chicago      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dallas vs. <b>San Jose</b>         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Miami vs. <b>New England</b>       | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### NHL Playoffs

Guess the exact score of Saturday's game

\_\_\_\_\_ **Washington** vs. Pittsburgh \_\_\_\_\_

4/6 Sports Challenge winner: **Matt Reaves**

\* Editor's picks are in bold.

## Harding Sports Records and Upcoming Games

**Baseball:** Overall: 18-11. Conference: 5-10. Next game: April 13, vs. Ouachita, 1 p.m.

**Women's Tennis:** Overall: 18-5. Conference: 6-0. Next match: April 13, at Ouachita Baptist.

**Men's Tennis:** Overall: 13-6. Conference: 2-1. Next match: April 13, vs S.E. Oklahoma, 1 p.m.

**Golf:** Next tournament: Gulf South Conference Tournament, April 15-17.

**Track:** Next meet: Arkansas State University, April 14.

Records are current as of April 10

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